

Fall 8-15-2004

## ENG 3903-001: Gendered Spaces

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*Linda Coleman*

*Coleman Hall 3562*

*581-5015*

*Office Hours: MWF 10-11 and MW  
2-2:30*

*And By Appointment*

### **English 3903--"Gendered Spaces " (Fall 2004)**

Since the advent of modern culture, with its attempted gendered division of experience, creative women have negotiated the opportunities and subverted the limitations of both private and public spaces. Their writing has helped to articulate and explore women's literal and figurative places in the world. Concentrating on works of fiction, we will consider the following questions: Where do women writers fit in the space of literary history? How have these writers constructed and envisioned the spaces/shapes of their stories? How do female and male characters define and experience interior and community spaces? How have socially constructed and geographical spaces influenced these writers' identities and work?

#### **Texts (Texts will be read in this order)**

- Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*
- Chopin, *The Awakening*
- Gilman, *The Yellow Wallpaper*
- Cather, *O Pioneers!*
- Olsen, *Tell Me a Riddle*
- Cisneros, *The House On Mango Street*
- Smiley, *A Thousand Acres*
- Allison, *Two or Three Things I Know for Sure*
- Naylor, *Mama Day*
- Divakaruni, *Mistress of Spices*

#### **Requirements**

- Active reading and class participation. Please have all readings completed by assigned days and be prepared with questions and discussion topics. Because the success of this class depends so completely on our collective participation, I have the following attendance policy: More than three unexcused absences will lower the class participation grade to an F. As outlined in the student catalogue, I will consider an absence excused only for "reasons of illness, emergency, or university activity." Please provide me with a memo or email when excused absences occur. Class participation =10% of the final grade.
- Short writes. In order to begin discussion, there will be brief short writes at the start of some class periods. I may occasionally ask for a brief short write outside of class as well. Short writes=10%.

- A reading journal/reaction notebook. Think of this as a place to consider informally the readings, the class discussions, or other directly relevant experiences. It's a site of discovery, meant primarily to record your developing thoughts and reactions to our topic. It also may provide you with possible essay topics. Because it's informal, I am not concerned with editing or formal structure. I would, however, ask that you focus on **one topic per entry** and not simply freewrite or brainstorm. Please do two entries per week, for a total of at least 28 entries. Each entry should be at least 300 words. You may use a spiral notebook or do your entries on the computer and collect them in a pocket folder. I will collect the journals, unannounced, every so often, so please bring them to class each period. Journal=20% of the final grade.
- Midterm (Approximately 10/11) and Final Examinations. These exams will be essay format. Midterm=15% and the Final (cumulative)=20%
- Formal Essay. This essay will be five to eight pages. A one page discussion of your topic is due to me by 11/19. Drafts of your papers should be brought to class on 12/3 for peer critique. Please bring two copies. Final essays are due 12/8. Essay=25%.

### **Disability Policy**

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

### **Electronic Writing Portfolio**

English 3903 is a writing-intensive course. If you plan to use the formal essay for your Electronic Writing Portfolio (EWP), please talk with me by midterm (October 13<sup>th</sup>). Seniors graduating this term should be aware of an early November deadline for final semester submissions. We will need to make special arrangements for your essay due dates. Additional information and forms are available at [www.eiu.edu/~assess](http://www.eiu.edu/~assess).

#### **Week 1**

M—Introductions

W—Woolf chpt. 1

F—Woolf chpt. 2

#### **Week 2**

M—Woolf chpts. 3&4

W—Woolf chpt. 5

F—Woolf chpt. 6

[No class Monday 9/6. We will begin Chopin in week 3.]